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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1897.

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## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE PHYSIOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

WE who have come from the little island on the other side of the great waters to take part in this important gathering of the British Association have of late been much exercised in retrospection. We have been looking back on the sixty years' reign of our beloved Sovereign, and dwelling on what has happened during her gracious rule. We have, perhaps, done little in calling to mind the wrongs, the mistakes and the failures of the Victorian era; but our minds and our mouths have been full of its achievements and its progress; and each of us, of himself or through another, has been busy in bringing back to the present the events of more than half a century of the past. It was while I, with others, was in this retrospective mood that the duty of preparing some few words to say to you to-day seemed suddenly to change from an impalpable cloud in the far distance to a heavy burden pressing directly on the back; and in choosing something to say I have succumbed to the dominant influence. Before putting pen to paper, however, I recovered sufficiently to resist the temptation to add one more to the many reviews which have appeared of the progress of physiology during the Victorian era. I also rejected the idea of doing that for which I find precedents in past presidential addresses—namely, of at-